

Serial No. 10/827,458
Reply to Office Action of 4/19/05

Amendments to the Specification:

The paragraph numbers correspond to the application as published, US 2004/0231043
A1.

Please amend paragraph [0066] as follows:

[0066] The bath lift system of the present invention is shown in the Figures (FIGS.) In particular, the preferred laterally offset retrofit embodiment J is shown in FIGS. 50-54; the alternative composite embodiment A, without a back recess 434, is shown in FIGS. 1-9; the alternative composite embodiment B, using a bellows member 148, is shown in FIGS. 10-11; the alternative composite embodiment C, with a power piston system 184 and power cam system 186, is shown in FIG. 12; the preferred alternative composite embodiment G of the bath lift system is shown in FIGS. 33-35; the alternative straight up retrofit embodiment D is shown in FIGS. 13-25; the alternative laterally offset retrofit embodiment H is shown in FIGS. 36-43; the alternative straight up retrofit embodiment E, with frame extension 406, is shown in FIGS. 26 and 27; the alternative straight up retrofit embodiment F, with alternative bellows member 422, is shown in FIGS. 28-32; and a self-pressurized system that can be used with all the embodiments A-H is shown in FIG. 44. (No embodiment is labeled "I.") FIGS. 45-47 show the retrofit embodiments provided with a hinge, generally indicated at 604, to allow alternative connections of the bath lifting system. FIGS. 48 and 49 show a retrofit embodiment force compensation system that allows the bath lifting system to compensate in response to a force exerted by obstruction O. It is contemplated that the preferred guiding assembly, lifting device, and lifting power system of FIGS. 50-54 can be adapted for use with the composite embodiment of the bath lifting system.

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Please amend paragraph [0157] as follows:

[0157] Turning now to FIGS. 45, 46 and 47, alternative connections of the retrofit embodiments of the present invention are possible through the use of a hinge, generally indicated at 604. The hinge 604 comprises a fastening hinge plate 604A, a frame hinge plate 604B, and a pin 604C. As best shown in FIG. 45, the fastening hinge plate 604A includes an opening to receive the threaded bolt 602A. The threaded bolt 602A is also received through an elastomeric member 606 sealingly positioned between the horizontally positioned fastening hinge plate 604A and the upper ledge 608 of the bath 24 20. The elastomeric member 606 can be fabricated from rubber, neoprene, or any other gasket material that provides a seal between the fastening hinge plate 604A and the upper ledge 608. The bolt 602A is further positioned through an opening 608A in the upper ledge 608 and can use a holding portion 602B of a blind fastener, as previously proposed, when the interior portion of the bath 610 is not accessible. This is particularly important in the retrofit of conventional baths where the upper ledge 608 is sealed with the interior wall W. The frame hinge plate 604B can receive a plurality of threaded members, such as countersunk bolts 612, for securing the frame hinge plate 604B to the side member 346A of the frame 300. As can be seen in FIG. 45, there is preferably a clearance C between the frame hinge plate 604B and the back bath wall 24A.